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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/650,049

08/26/2003

Edward V. Bautista JR.

03-02

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03/02/2005

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EXAMINER

TRAN, MICHAEL THANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/650,049

Applicant(s)

BAUTISTA ET AL.

Examiner

Michael t. Tran

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-18 and 20-35 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

MICHAEL TRAN

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Communications dated August 26, 2003, claims 1-35 are active in this application.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 3-18 and 20-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Halim

et al. [U.S. Patent #6,707,718].

With respect to claim 1, Halim et al. disclose a method of providing a CAM [content addressable memory] cell of a flash memory device, including the steps of: Fabricating a respective core flash memory cell, to be used as the CAM cell, as part of a core array of the flash memory device; and accessing the respective core flash memory cell as the CAM cell for a CAM function within the flash memory device. See column 32. In the cited column, Halim et al. indicated that CAM cells comprise of flash memory, which are programmed to redirect defective flash memory with redundant flash memory.

With respect to claim 2, Halim et al. disclose the method further including step of: fabricating an additional sector as part of the core array of the flash memory device to include the respective core flash memory cell used as the CAM cell. See column 32. In the cited column, Halim et al. indicated that there exists a fabrication of an array of CAM cells. An array can be interpreted as having a plurality of sub-arrays.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Halim et al. [U.S. Patent #6,707,718].

With respect to claim 19, Halim et al. disclose a system for providing a CAM [content addressable memory] cell of a flash memory device, comprising: a respective core flash memory cell fabricated as part of a core array of the flash memory device and to be used as the CAM cell [See column 32. In the cited column, Halim et al. indicated that CAM cells comprise of flash memory, which are programmed to redirect

defective flash memory with redundant flash memory.]; a y-decoder for accessing a bit line of the core array of the flash memory device including a bit line of the respective core flash memory cell used as the CAM cell [see figure 26]; and an x-decoder for accessing a word-line of the respective core flash memory cell used as the CAM cell for a CAM function within the flash memory device [see figure 45].

Allowable Subject Matter

6. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of records does not show (in addition to the other elements in the claim) the following:

- Fabricating within the additional sector a plurality of core flash memory cells, each to be used as a respective CAM cell within the flash memory device.
- An additional sector fabricated as part of the core array of the flash memory device to include the respective core flash memory cell used as the CAM cell; and an additional x-decoder unit for accessing a word-line of the additional sector.

Conclusion

7. When responding to the Office action, Applicants are advised to provide the Examiner with line and page numbers of the application and/or references cited to assist the Examiner in the prosecution of this case.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

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the Examiner should be directed to Michael T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1795. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30-6:00 P.M.

9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1650.



Michael T. Tran
Art Unit 2827
February 28, 2005

MICHAEL TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER